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HOW TO SUBMIT PRACTICALLY ANYTHING TO PRACTICALLY ANYONE OR MISTAKES HAVE BEEN MADE

Susan M. Garrett

Contributing to a fanzine or any fannish publication is not that difficult, but a lot of anxiety, angst, and general anguish can be avoided by consistently following the same guidelines, no matter who you're dealing with. If you remember to send an SASE with just about everything you send and keep copies of all of your in-coming and out-going correspondence, you've got a firm foundation to stand on.

Where can I find a zine that I can submit to?

Read any good zines lately? Did they mention if they are planning on another issue and need material? Or how about the Proposed or Planned section of an adzine, where editors are practically begging for material? Every con has a zine flyer table, most of the flyers stating that artists and writers are needed. Why not pick up a flyer or two?

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There are a dozen different ways to find a zine. The difficult thing is to find a zine that you would like to contribute to, say one with a proven track record, an editor who knows how to work with people, and a consistent production schedule. Going on the assumption that you'd probably buy any zine that you'd like to contribute to, use the same criteria for submissions that you'd use for purchase — look over back issues or other zines the editor has done. In addition, if you know some contributors who have worked with an editor before, talk to them about their experience with this or that editor. Of course, if the editor hasn't put out a zine before, but is working in a fandom that particularly interests you, you have to rely on common sense and more than a bit of gut instinct. If you live by the adage "anything worth doing is worth doing well", make certain your potential editor does, too.

Letter of Inquiry

An SASE and a brief letter asking for submission guidelines should always be your first step, whether you're dealing with the amateur or professional marketplace.

In your letter of inquiry, feel free to ask brief questions, such as the editor's response time, what the submissions backlog might be (e.g., if you submit something today, when might it see print), and how many contributions you should submit at one time). Keep in mind that many questions will be answered by the guidelines. Keep your letter short and concise — you can ask more questions later, after you've read the guidelines.

If the zine has issues in print, borrow or purchase a copy. A quick browse through a zine will give you the feel of the thing and help you determine whether or not you'd like to appear in print under that editor. If the editor doesn't have guidelines, looking at a copy of their previous work becomes even more important.

There are certain questions different types of contributors will want answered that will probably be found in the submissions guidelines.

Items a writer should look for include:

- * What story length is acceptable (short, long, vignette, novella)
- * What media is acceptable (e.g., *Star Trek* only, a *Star Trek-Buck Rogers* crossover, etc.)
- * Whether slash or adult stories are accepted (if you write slash, you know your work will be looked at; if you don't write slash and don't want to appear in a zine that prints slash, knowing whether or not the zine accepts slash could determine whether or not you want to submit to that zine)
- * How often the zine is published

* What type or tone of story the editor is looking for (character studies, crossovers, action-adventure, religious themes, etc.)

* What form of compensation is given (a contributor's copy, discount, etc.)

Most importantly, the guidelines should tell you how to format your submission. The easier it is for an editor to read through your submissions and judge it against other submissions, the faster you'll get a response. If an editor asks for clear, double-spaced black type on white paper and does not accept hand-written submissions, do not send a story written on notebook paper, or a vignette typed in red ribbon on yellow paper. By adhering to guidelines, an editor knows that you can follow directions and will be easy to work with. A submission on yellow paper with red print would probably be returned unread.

Those who submit poetry or filks should keep an eye out for submission minimums — certain editors will only give a contributor's copy in payment if a certain number of poems or filks are printed in that issue.

Items an artist should look for include:

* What media is acceptable (e.g., pen & ink, charcoal, pencil, color, etc.)

* What fandom or genre is acceptable (e.g. *Star Trek*, British media, etc.)

* Whether slash or adult artwork is acceptable (if you illustrate slash, you know your work will be looked at; if you don't illustrate slash and don't want to appear in a zine that prints slash knowing whether or not the zine accepts slash could determine whether or not you want to submit to that zine)

* How often the zine is published

* What type of illustration the editor is looking for (e.g., portrait, action, background, spot illos, splash pages, etc.)

* What form of compensation is given (e.g. a contributor's copy, discount, etc.)

* What style artwork the editor is looking for (e.g., cartoon, impressionistic, realistic, etc.)

* Whether the editor requires originals or good photocopies (if an editor will only handle originals, what assurances an editor will provide for the safe return of a healthy original)

* How artwork is assigned (e.g., will the editor give you a choice of stories, will the editor provide photo references, how much time will be allowed for each assignment, the number of illustrations per story, etc.)

It is also a very good idea when you send an inquiry to enclose a few samples of your artwork. A sample is usually a photocopy which need not be returned — *never* send an original as a sample. To make matters easier, write the word

SAMPLE on the photocopy. In addition, if the work has been printed in another zine, write the words *NOT FOR REPRINT* very prominently on the sample. It's also a good idea to jot on the back or front of the sample what zine the work appeared in and when. It might be a good idea to write *NOT FOR REPRINT* on a sample whether or not it has been printed, as some editors file samples and, coming across them years later, may use them for later printing. Then, if the sample is available, notify the editor in your letter of inquiry.

Send more recent samples if possible, as an illo done in 1995 is probably of a better quality and more adequately reflects your current ability than would an illo done in 1992. If you want your sample returned, make certain you enclose that all important SASE (which you should enclose anyway), and mention it in your inquiry letter or ask that the editor keep them on file for future consideration.

Keep in mind that established fanzine artists usually book their assignments in advance. New artists are better off in that they usually aren't booked for long stretches and are free to take on emergency spot illo or story illo work.

Take note of specific instructions. If an editor requests only pen and ink, do not send pencils or color. If an editor wants artwork smaller than 8 x 10, do not send an 11 x 17 photocopy and expect it to be reproduced. Adhering to an editor's guidelines is as important for an artist as a writer.

What if I've got one cartoon to submit?

There are basically two ways that an artist does work, by assignment or on their own initiative. Work by assignment means that an editor has assigned a specific story or project. Many artists do work on their own initiative, which are sometimes called fillos — cartoons, portraits from photos or references that they particularly like, etc. When looking over guidelines, determine how an editor deals with artwork submissions — by assignment, fillos or both. Editors have been known to use non-assigned work as story illos and cartoons, and small sketches are a welcome answer to the problem of glaring white space when paste-up time comes around.

Can't I go ahead and send a submission without sending for guidelines?

Sure, if you want to waste your time and money. Say you've seen the zine and like it and you send the editor a seventy-page story — the editor just may turn around and mail it back to you (provided you've enclosed an SASE) because the zine will not accept stories over forty pages. Or you can mail a poem to an editor, who returns it with a note that the zine does not accept poetry. So you waste postage, your time, and the editor's time. Artists should never try to illo a story

based on an ad synopsis and then submit the art — what happens if the editor has assigned the work to another artist, or the story has been deleted from the issue or changed dramatically? In any case, your chances of *accurately* illoing a story from an ad description are very small.

The best defense is a strong offense. Know what the editor wants before you invest a lot of time and money. Editors will be happy to see your inquiry letters because they can usually answer your questions with a minimum of effort and, if you know exactly what to send them, it saves them time as well.

Submitting

If an editor gives a positive reply to your inquiry, it's time to send in your submission. As always, enclose an SASE of sufficient size and postage to handle the return of your submission. It is also a good idea to enclose a long, business-size SASE, in case the editor has a few questions or comments that won't require the return of your entire manuscript or artwork. Remember, every minute you save the editor is a minute more they can spend on presenting your work in the best possible light.

When submitting writing, poetry or filks, make certain your submission:

1. Adheres to the writer's guidelines;
2. Is in clear, legible type;
3. Has your name, address and date on the first page or as per submission guidelines;
4. Pages are numbered with the story title and an identifying name at the top of each page (thus pages that get separated can easily be put back together again).

In addition, attach a short letter with your name, address, the title of the submission, the name of the fanzine the submission is for, and the date. This cover letter is considered a courtesy and is often helpful to editors in following up on the submission.

When submitting artwork, make certain you:

1. Acknowledge receipt of a manuscript or assignment, including the deadline;
2. Adhere to the artwork guidelines;
3. Place your name and address in light pencil on the back of a piece of artwork, or per submission guidelines;
4. Enclose a brief letter listing the items enclosed, what assignments they are for, what fanzines they are for, your name, address and the date.

Usually, artists are instructed to send clean photocopies of their artwork. If the guidelines do not specify whether or

own material will appear egotistic and using a pseudonym makes them feel more comfortable.

The final reason for using a pseudonym with intent to hide one's identity may be because the author does not feel their work is good enough to affix their own name (a reaction which may result from shyness or humility, a canny critical ability, or excessive hubris).

A fan may also use a pseudonym to make his or her name more readily identifiable — this is especially popular with artists. A one word or memorable name may stick with a reader or editor better than a very complicated multisyllabic name.

The use of a pseudonym is not necessarily good or bad. In the professional world, a male or female name could make the difference in selling a particular genre (e.g. men writing romance novels under female name). Fannish publishing is also somewhat affected by this phenomenon, in that non-media science fiction is more salable under male than female names, but even this will pass by the wayside. A name is a powerful tool that attaches an author to a story, an artist to a work, and editor to a zine. It provides identity and recognition, assisting in getting your work out to people who will see it and enjoy it.

If you want to hide, use a pseudonym, but if you work under your own name *and* a pseudonym, you limit your audience and recognition factor. If you are proud of your work and have no practical reasons for using a pseudonym, use your own name. If you do use a pseudonym, do it consistently, so your audience can find you.

Collaboration

Occasionally, a submission may have been created or contributed to by more than one person. The work may be the result of a round robin, a late night con story session, or an artist inking another artist's pencils. In such a case, the work should be submitted by all parties involved. If an editor is dealing with one of the collaborators, the editor may request written proof of permission from the other contributor(s).

An editor is not telepathic and often cannot tell whether a submission is the result of more than one person's effort. Be honest with the situation and be willing to give credit to someone else for work they have done — notify the editor that the submission is a collaboration. If you have any questions whether or not the other person made a significant contribution to the work to merit credit, talk to the person in

question, as well as the editor. It is far easier to resolve questions and ease hurt feelings if the situation is dealt with before the submission is accepted and in print under one name.

How a collaboration is credited can be determined by the collaborators or the editor. Names may be listed in alphabetical order, by the majority of work in the contribution, or by the type of work (i.e., pencillers are usually listed before inkers because a pencil sketch must be completed before it can be inked). If the contributors come to an agreement on how credit should be posted, they should notify the editor and ask if the situation is acceptable. A compromise can usually be worked out.

Before submission of a collaboration, the contributors should ask the editor how payment shall be given if the submission is accepted. Some editors will give only one contributor's copy per submission, no matter how many people collaborate on a submission, while others will give a contributor's copy to every contributor, including each member of a collaboration. This is an important issue that should be worked out before the work is submitted, or it can lead to bad blood between editor and contributor or between the collaborators themselves.

Contributor's Copy

It is considered polite to write a brief note to an editor when you receive your contributor's copy, especially if it has been sent through the mail. The editor may have no idea at all whether or not you have received your copy or whether it has been lost in the mail, unless you acknowledge the receipt. Not only will you ease your editor's mind, but you will also gain their good favor.

If you see a zine for sale or know of someone who has received their copy, but you have not yet received your contributor's copy, write and ask them if you should be worried. It could be the copy was lost in the mail, or the editor intends to hand it to you when they see you, or that they gave it to someone else to give to you and the copy never got through. It could be, of course, that your copy was never sent, but that is seldom the case. Be polite. Good relations between a contributor and editor lead to pleasant working conditions in future.



MovieCon #1 — Krieg der Nikoläuse *("War of the Santas")*

A. G. Steyn

Friday, December 4, 1998

Prelude

How do you folks hear about upcoming cons? I started a new tactic — pestering the living hell out of Prowse and Bulloch (Dave made the bad mistake of staying in contact with me after the San Fran con and Jeremy slipped me his private address. The boys have been regretting it ever since!).

Well, be that as it may, I lucked out. One day while sleeping in my office (gads, that desk is hard!), the phone rang and there was a man named Jens Reinheimer, calling from Stuttgart. He gave me "greetings from our mutual friend, Dave Prowse" and informed me that Dave had instructed him to send me a flyer for Moviecon #1 — War of the Santas. That sounded very good to my ears. And since prices weren't too high, I decided to make my reservations immediately, ending up with con ticket #7. Told you before — I'm fast!

For those of you nosey little critters wondering about the title, it was held on December 5th and 6th, 1998. Now, December 6th is Saint Nicholas Day, patron of children, shipmen, merchants ... and thieves! The night before (evening of December 5th), tradition has it that Saint Nick comes down from heaven (on foot or on a white horse) and visits the children. He carries two books, a golden one with the names of all the good children and a black one with the names of the bad kids, and a large sack full of sweets and toys. Very often he is accompanied by a very rugged, black-clad, Rambo-type character called "Sankt Ruprecht" (Saint Rupert) or "Hans Muff". The guy carries an empty sack (in which he hauls off the worst kids ... usually boys!) and a bunch of thin twigs tied into a short, broom-like spanking device.

Okay, so much for background. The con was held in Böblingen, a town southwest of Stuttgart, whose major industries are a Mercedes-Benz plant and the Kibri Works, which makes model trains. The convention hall was just down the road a bit from these plants.

Scheduled guests were David Prowse, Jeremy Bulloch, Peter Mayhew, Kenny Baker, Warwick Davis, Julie Caitlin Brown, and Robin Curtis.

I got in early on Friday, December 4th — before the rooms were ready and before any of the guests arrived. I had brought Jeremy a special bag of "sweeties" and left them for



A. G. Steyn and Jeremy Bulloch

him at the front desk — with a note inside. About 4:00 p.m., I was relaxing in my room when there was a rap on the door.

I jumped up like I was zapped with a cattle prod and dashed to the door. "One moment!" (Ask me how I knew that this was an English-speaking person. It's the Force!) Yes! It was Jeremy Bulloch, dressed in a dark blue fleece jacket, a blue/gray checkered shirt, baggy pants and the widest grin in the galaxy. And then I noticed a young man — mid-twenties, reddish-blond, quite tall (over 6 ft) and a bit chunky. After a "Hi", a hug and a kiss, Jeremy introduces me. "This is my son, Jamie. I brought him along because he speaks German ... could come in handy during the con, and he's never been to a con before. I took my son Robbie to Spain with me this summer because he speaks Spanish and Italian. Jamie speaks French and German. He teaches German language and Austrian history at Kings College,

London.”

I’m impressed. JB tells me that Jamie just arrived from London and he had gone to the airport to pick his son up. (A-ha! That’s why the sweetie wasn’t around when I arrived.) And then I learned that the whole gang had been in southern Germany for a week already, visiting American army barracks, taking a tour of the Mercedes-Benz plant, visiting Munich and the local Christmas market, and so on. Sounds like they had a ball.

I’m even more impressed when Jeremy asks me whether I would join the gang for drinks in the bar and later for dinner. YEAH!!!!

At 6:30, I make my appearance in the bar. Dave Prowse is the first to greet me. Peter Mayhew says “hi”. Peter slowly remembers my mug from way back in San Fran ... through the veils of time and several German beers. Kenny Baker arrives a few minutes later and there is a lively discussion over where to have supper. In the end, Dave, Thomas (their chauffeur) and I opt for Chinese, while the rest of the gang goes in search of a German beerhouse.

The food is good and so is the company and conversation. Dave informs me that he is hoping that, either by the end of prequel 2 or 3, Vader will be back in all his black splendor ... and that (provided he can walk properly without a cane), he will be playing him.

Saturday, December 5, 1998

You will never find a more wretched hive of scum and villainy...

The con takes place at what actually looks like an office building. Very modern. Not much atmosphere, and the con is all over the building, so one has to know where to go and what to do. Downstairs, there is a VIP room for the guest stars (sort of a holding pen), a gaming room (where Julie Caitlin-Brown teaches fans to play the *Babylon 5* role-playing card game), a room where some movie artifacts and replicas can be inspected (also some stuff which will later be on the block at a benefit auction), restrooms, a bar (not in use at the con), and upstairs is the autograph signing room, restrooms, a messhall, and an auditorium for the show. At the very end of the room, several PC’s are installed — and a camera that sends the image of everybody stupid enough to dwell in front of it straight into the Internet. The PC’s are there to give folks the chance to surf the net and take a look at the new SW software. Neat. Jeremy is interested in getting the latest results on the British soccer and cricket games and instructs his son to get these first thing tomorrow morning. Men! They are all the same.

Flanking the rows of chairs (too few) in the auditorium are the long tables of two dealers of Galactic junk (models, posters, trading cards, etc.). A weird setup, if you ask me. At the front of the room is a stage, some loudspeakers, a movie

screen, and a bunch of cardboard standup folks from SW, Trek and B5 universes. Do I really have to stare at Obi-Wan for the next 2 days straight?

Some con helpers give out instructions to incoming guests that there will be absolutely no photography allowed, unless sanctioned by the stars. I talk to JB about this. Answer: RUBBISH! You take as many pix as you want. You got our full backup.

Needless to say, no fan cares about the restrictions. They snap photos as they please and I have the feeling that behind the curtain the boys had an intimate talk with the people in charge of this shit.

The opener-upper is the prequel teaser. Lots of oh’s and ah’s from the con goers. The boys rush in to see it, too. They are quite taken with it. The celebs go on stage together. Robin Curtis and Warwick Davis are still missing. Jeremy is the front man, introducing everybody, quipping that Peter will later on deliver the Hamlet monologue (3 hours) in German, and Dave is going to do the Full Monty. No word on what he himself plans on doing.

Then everyone except Jeremy leaves the stage. He starts with the usual “Who wants to be Boba” routine. That always helps people to loosen up.

Then it’s Q&A time. JB reveals that his new show will probably come to Germany on the Sci-Fi Channel and that he hopes that with Boba returning in prequel #2 and #3, young Boba (age 18-20, yet without helmet) will be played by son Robbie. Unless, of course, it’s a masked Boba, in which case he hopes to do that bit himself. JB added that there was little chance for himself to play an unmasked Boba ... even with tons of makeup he couldn’t be made to look 20 again! JB also points out nonchalantly that Boba and Han are old fighting buddies ... but no more juicy details.

JB mentions all the creative people that make up the SW universe — those actually working on the movies and those out there among the fans, who help keep the spirit alive. Mentions how excellent some are. So good that the art of many of them have found their way to Skywalker Ranch, often with the help of the stars and that some artists have actually gone to work for Lucas. And then goes on: “We got quite a great artist right here...”, looks and points in my direction and mentions my name. I feel my blood run hot and cold at the same time. He shouldn’t do that to me! Okay, he notices me cringing there in my hiding place under the potted plant!

After the lunch break, it’s autograph signing time. A lot of fans are very unhappy with the fact that the stars charge for their autographs. It’s common opinion that at least one picture with signature should be included in the con admission price. I get two from JB and one from Warwick Davis, who had finally arrived. Remarkable that he found the time, considering that he has a baby at home and a lot of work coming up on the new prequels.

By 2:15 p.m., it's stage time again, this time with Julie Caitlin-Brown and Robin Curtis. They do a bit of Q&A, but since the fans can't think of too many things to ask, they interrogate each other, which is very funny. Both are fun to watch and listen to. And not in the least shy when it comes to certain topics, like a brand of condoms very common here in Germany!

They are called "Billy-Boy" and Julie thinks they are named for William Shatner. Robin informs us that, during filming of the *Star Trek* movies, she had a game going of staring at Shatner's head, trying to spot the line where his toupee ended and his own hair began. She said, "It was a bit like staring at one of those 3-D pix ... where you grow cross-eyed until you see what's really behind all these scribbled lines and psychedelic color patterns. After about an hour or so, I all of a sudden saw it clearly ... and believe me, it's waaaaayyyyyy down low on his head. Just two inches or so above his neck!"

At 4:00, Kenny and Warwick have to make their stand (or is that seat?). Gosh, they are so tiny ... they'd fit in an average sized dollhouse. I think Warwick has beautiful hands and a very nice, warm voice. From Kenny we get some private information: that his wife died 5 years ago and that his only hobby nowadays is collecting cars (he owns a Mercedes-Benz and a Rolls Royce "Carnation"). I try to imagine our little R2 unit behind the wheel of such a huge car and have a tough time keeping a straight face.

After R2 and Wicket, it's time for the big boys to entertain the folks. Peter and Dave try to arrange their endless limbs on the chairs, then ask for questions from the audience. Slowly the questions start trickling in, partially in English, partially in German. They have a very nice young lady to do the translating.

Dave talks about *Jabberwocky*, the Monty Python movie. How he was first asked to play the knight called "Red Herring" then to additionally play the "Black Knight". He was then asked to also play the dragon — but that never came to be. Guess the Monty Pythons were trying shortcuts at every corner. Now, in this movie, if you've seen it, Dave as the Black Knight is mounted on a huge horse (a Shire named "Doolittle") and he has to fight his opponent in the joust with a spiked iron ball on a chain. The script has it that the knight falls off his horse. So they piled up mattresses and Dave took a spill. Time and time again, until he was black, blue and bleeding. Finally, the horse decided enough was enough and bolted. Dave fell for real, got hung up in stirrup, and was dragged along, plowing the good British soil. The horse ran by a pond and all Dave could think about was: "If that stupid nag goes into the water or if my foot comes loose and I roll into the water by myself ... with all the heavy armor I'm wearing, I'll go straight to the bottom and never come up again!"



l to r around table: Jamie Bulloch, Julie Caitlin-Brown, unknown chap, Peter Mayhew, Dave Prowse, Robin Curtis, Jeremy Bulloch, Warwick Davis enjoy a lunch break

The Monty Pythons loved the scene so much, they hopped up and down screaming "terrific!", "marvelous!", "fantastic!" and so on. The scene went straight into the finished movie. They left the scene in even though a rental van is clearly visible in the background.

Peter remembered how he fell unconscious playing Chewie in the carbon freezing chamber scene ... and how the Lucas folks were only afraid that 3PO in the backpack would be damaged. How nice. How considerate. He also revealed that he can't swim! Then, in his best Yorkshire drawl, he told us about Chewie having to learn the entire script, even if he himself had no lines to speak. Now, he meant to say, "You had to study their lines". It's not his fault that it came out as "You had to study their loins!" (Okay, Peter, I've been studying Han's and Boba's loins for the last 20 years or so! I've become an expert in the field!)

Sunday, December 6, 1998

There isn't enough life on this ice cube to fill a space cruiser...

It has been snowing the entire weekend and it continues

to come down! Attendance at the con is down from yesterday. Just a small circle of friends, so to speak. All in all, there are maybe 7 or 8 "new" fans who only held tickets for Sunday. Today, Kenny and Warwick open the circus.

Then it's Julie and Robin's turn on stage. They sing Christmas carols. The talk turns to Billy-Boys again. I mention to Julie that they are *not* named after Shatner, but the President of the United States. That has everyone in stitches. Julie points out that you could never have such interesting topics at an American con!

After lunch, the stars are requested to judge the costume contest. The winner of the Grand Prize is the girl who came in a perfect homemade *Babylon 5* costume (the lizard-woman that is portrayed by Julie Caitlin-Brown). Julie went "Wow!" when she saw that costume. It was marvelous.

JB is the last celeb to do his routine. Today the girls are much better than the boys at playing Boba. One girl gives the famous "He's no good to me dead" speech in the local German dialect and floors the whole house with this. Haven't laughed so hard in years. What a scream! Literally! JB is so excited he forces the poor girl to write down the words for him. He wants to learn them and use 'em at the next con. Okay, so now Boba speak Swabian. What's this world coming to?

We learn that Jeremy likes *The X-Files*, that his new series *First Frontier* will be a bit like B5, in that it's a series with an ongoing plot, and that the people in it wear very elaborate Renaissance-type costumes.

We also learn that in the Cloud City scene, where Boba drags frozen Han to the *Slave I*, JB got his one lonely line of dialogue mixed up. Instead of "Put Captain Solo in the cargo hold," Jeremy spluttered, "Put Captain Cargo in the Solo hold." Since it didn't matter that much (the voice would be re-dubbed later), Kershner kept filming.

JB talked a bit about his two appearances on *Dr. Who*, then it was time for the charity auction to begin. The last item on the block — a package of, you guessed it, Billy-Boys! Julie volunteered to hold the auction herself. She and Robin signed the package and pressed lipstick kisses on it. Robin then wanted to know how many are in the package and what color they are. So, Julie opened it up. "One, two, three, four! And they're all different colors, I think ... and, oh, how cute! They have tiny, smiley-faced penises all over the wrappers! But hey, these things are small. What does that tell us about German men?"

All hell broke loose at that, with people laughing until they cried. And the auction got more than lively. In the end, a guy bought the package for DM200 (about \$119 U.S.)!!

It's dark as we leave the con. Just outside, JB spots a car with a lot of snow on top and, without another word, grabs a handful of snow, aims at some unsuspecting girls — and the battle is on!



Stuck at the Hoth airport... Dave Prowse, Jeremy Bulloch, Robin Curtin, Jens Reinheimer (man in charge of the con), Peter Mayhew, Kenny Baker

Back at the hotel, we all met in the bar again while waiting for Jens, the con organizer, to take us somewhere to eat. Meanwhile, the topic turns to sweet and not-so-sweet SW memories. JB remembers that he used to talk to Jabba (!) to stay awake on the ROTJ set — hot and boring. And that Carrie kept complaining that "the stupid bounty hunter is always staring at my tits!" JB: "Hey, I was wearing my helmet. Couldn't see a thing. Aside from that, it was a nice view."

Monday, December 7, 1998

I want my lamp back — I'm going to need it to get out of this slimy mudhole...

It has been snowing heavily all weekend and this morning it's snowing like it's going out of style! I have a very bad feeling about this!

At 8:30 a.m., everyone climbs into the vans for the trip to the airport. The roads are very crowded and traffic moves at a snail's pace. When we finally reach the airport, it doesn't look good. The big sign says: "Delayed! Delayed! Cancelled! Delayed!" Ack! We line up at the Lufthansa counter and the people at the counter shake their heads. "No, sorry. You

can't check in at the moment. We'll let you know later on."

That turns out to be *never*. We wait and wait and wait. Robin rummages through her luggage and fishes out some oranges she took from the hotel fruit basket. Soon she is feeding everyone little slices of orange. (When was the last time you were fed by a Vulcan Federation lieutenant?)

After a while, Kenny notices that there are green lights blinking next to the Lufthansa flight to London. We go to check the status and reach the counter just as they are announcing, "Last call for Lufthansa flight No. So-and-So to London!" Ack!!!

Dave grabs a Lufthansa man by the collar and lets him know that this little congregation here needs to be on that flight and that he dare not close the counter until each and every one of the group has a seat on the plane. The man looks Dave up and down and decides not to pick any bones with the Sith Lord. The group can hurry to check in, but their luggage will go on a later flight.

Then it's goodbye in a hurry. Dave hugs me to his broad chest, kisses me on the mouth (yikes!), and expresses his hopes to see me again real soon. Then it's a quick hug and kiss from JB and Peter. Kenny is already gone as are Robin and her husband Kent. And now they're gone and I'm all alone in this stupid airport.

I check in minutes later and then sit and sit and sit. And then they announce that my flight to Duesseldorf has been cancelled. Outside the snow is now blowing almost

horizontally and visibility is zero! I find out that ALL domestic and most European flights have been cancelled. I decide to take the train. But first I have to find the train station.

Finally get there and on a train to Duisburg. But it moves at a snail's pace because of the weather. I could *walk* there faster! Then it pulls over to let a faster train pass! I feel like I'm in a blooper reel! We finally get to Duisburg at 6:45 in the evening and I still have to catch a bus home ... only to find the bus I need has just left! So I have to stand around in the cold until 7:04.

Finally, at 7:25, I fall into my door — and into the nearest armchair!

So, what was my opinion of the con? It was fun. Could have been better, but it was the first one the organizer had done. The good thing was that, due to the low attendance, there was a lot of fraternizing between fans and guest stars. The atmosphere was good, everybody was laid back to the point of being lazy. The "dealer's room" was a joke, but who cares? I was in with the in-crowd. I was the mascot of the group, although some people may have had suspicions that I was some sort of Lucasfilm Groupie.

If I can, I shall try to catch my guys somewhere in the US or Great Britain for the premier of *Phantom Menace*. And I want to be in the show when it opens in Germany ... huddled in the back row of the theater, in pitch darkness ... with my baby by my side! (Wishful thinking of course!)

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Deadline for #53 — June 15, 1999. *Submissions received later than seven (7) days after deadline will not be published in the current issue.*

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THE MOONS OF YAVIN has been running in the U.K. since 1984 and produced two club-related magazines, *Telesponder*, which is packed full of club info, SW news, and views and some of the best artwork around, and *Galaxy Travellers*, which includes SW fiction, both from the club members and other SW fans. The Moons of Yavin is for the active fan, for those whose views, artwork, reviews and fandom express their love for their interest in SW. The Moons of Yavin also caters to the younger SW fan, with its own Junior Section. For more details on the club, write to:

Jamie Spracklen
58 Seymour Road
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Essex, SS7 2HL, U.K.



UPCOMING CONVENTION INFO...

Mark down March 27-28, 1999, if you're within travelling distance of Dallas for the Plano SciFi Expo and Toy Show (Plano is a suburb of Dallas). Confirmed guests stars will be Jeri Ryan (Seven of Nine), Jonathan de Arco (Hugh Borg), Chase Masterson (Leeta the Dabo Girl), author Timothy Zahn, and in a rare appearance, Garrick Hagon (Biggs Darklighter)!

And if you're not going to make MediaWest and/or are able to make it to Dallas May 21-23, don't miss the next Plano SciFi Expo and Toy Show. Because of the new SW movie opening that week, this one will be a SW blowout with the following guest stars — Billy Dee Williams (Lando), Kenny Baker (R2D2), Jeremy Bulloch (Boba Fett), Peter Mayhew (Chewbacca), Phil Brown (Uncle Owen), Mike Carter (Bib Fortuna), Maria deAragon (Greedo), John Hollis (Lobot), Mike Edmonds (Logray), Melissa Kurtz and Tiffany Kurtz (Jawas), with more guests pending, including Gary Kurtz.

Check out their web site at:
<http://members.aol/toyshow/>

Randy and I will be have a booth at both shows! Come see us! Then we'll see you at MWC the next weekend!!!
Star Wars Rules!!!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ...

Brian and Amanda Harris on the birth of their son Robert Bruce Harris. He was born on January 29 at 3:27 p.m. and weighed in at 8 lbs., 4 oz. and 20-1/2" long. Brian says that he has a full head of curly black hair and is just the coolest guy in the universe! You can send congrats to the happy family at CrnchyBmbl@AOL.com.

Martha Wells, whose latest book, *The Death of the Vecromancer*, has made the Final Ballot for the Nebula Awards! Way to go, Martha!!!

Susan Matthews on the publication of her new book, *Hour of Judgment*, the final chapter of her Andrej Koscuisko trilogy. Look for it in book stores now! And Susan, by the way, was nominated for the Philip K. Dick Award for best new author with her first book, *An Exchange of Hostages*. Applause!

LATE BREAKING NEWS...

Friends of Fandom - Info Alert
March 1999
Welcome Aboard

The age of digital theaters dawns June 18, 1999 in four theaters (cities and locations to be announced later) when *Star Wars: Episode I: The Phantom Menace* is beamed via satellite to theaters and shown by digital projectors for the first time.

Fans will further be happy to hear that *Phantom Menace's* premiere date has been moved up from Friday May 21 to Wednesday May 19 in order to give the fans a "head start", so that the lines won't be so prohibitively long for families to see the movie by the time the weekend comes along!

Space: The Next Millennium

Actually that's the title of the 18th Annual International Space Development Conference. They have pulled in Apollo 10 Astronauts Tom Stafford, John Young, and Gene Cernan to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Apollo 10. The conference will cover a number of topics dear to the heart of SF fans everywhere including the development of commercial space, the International Space Station, "Return to the Moon", "On to Mars", and deep space discovery. Check it out at <http://www.nss.org/isdc/home.html>.

Speaking of Gene Cernan

The first man to travel around the earth without being in a craft (he was spacewalking at the time) now has his own book out — *Last Man on the Moon : Astronaut Eugene Cernan and America's Race in Space*.

Like to get InfoAlert from Friends of Fandom?

If you would be interested in receiving future editions of Info Alert directly, email clifton@cs.uh.edu or register directly on <http://www.clever.net/cam/register.html>. Be seeing you!

Margaret A. Fincannon, Friends of Fandom &
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In TV's Dull Summer Days, Plots Take Wing on the Net

By AMY HARMON

On TV this summer, as it does every long, trying season of reruns, time is standing still. Impatient channel surfing doesn't help. Glimpses of fall premieres are only maddening. Months will go by before fans know what happens in the lives — and deaths — of characters in their favorite prime-time dramas.

But on the Internet, where nothing ever stands still, prime time's cliffhangers have long since been resolved in an emerging electronic genre known as "fan fiction," which has spawned hundreds of World Wide Web sites and Internet discussion groups.

In this season of their recurring discontent, fans of TV shows from the critically acclaimed drama "E.R." to the campy "Xena: Warrior Princess" have already moved on, coloring cyberspace with back stories, subplots and character arcs that veer gleefully astray from their creators' more predictable plans.

Unfettered by formula or the strictures of internal consistency, fan fiction traces its roots to the photocopied pamphlets passed around in the 1970's by the notoriously cultish "Star Trek" devotees at conventions and through the mail. But the recent outpouring of digitized fan scribbling — one "X-Files" Web archive has accumulated 6,000 stories in its 18 months of existence — seems to signal the genesis of a cultural movement with a much broader appeal.

"There are more fans out there now," said Betsy Vera, a secretary in Ann Arbor, Mich., who began reading fanzines in the early 1980's but now collects addresses for fan-fiction Web sites and E-mail lists — about 800 so far, which she has helpfully organized by subject matter.

"You're getting a lot of the people who wouldn't be caught dead near a convention," Ms. Vera said. "It's different if you do it on the Web."

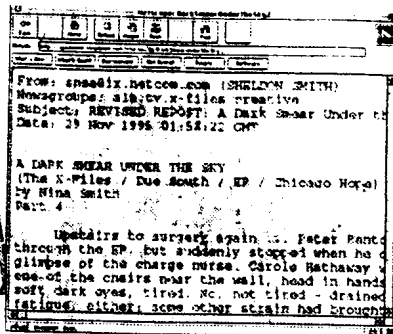
As much a template for communication as it is a creative outlet for excess enthusiasm, on-line fan fiction is a new testament to TV's role as a common language in a society becoming both more global and

more fragmented. It also reflects the power of the Internet as a grassroots publishing platform, making every viewer a potential contributor.

The mixture of the two, some media theorists say, may presage an information-age return to the folk tradition of participatory storytelling, which in earlier times spawned the "Iliad" and the legend of King Arthur. Or at least it may make watching TV more fun.

"If you go back, the key stories we told ourselves were stories that were important to everyone and belonged to everyone," said Henry Jenkins, director of media studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "Fan fiction is a way of the culture repairing the damage done in a system where contemporary myths are owned by corporations instead of owned by the folk."

Conceiving new plot twists for "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" may not have quite the same effect on Western culture as, say, inserting a "wine dark sea" flourish into an epic poem.



WHERE TO GO

- INDEXES OF FAN FICTION <http://members.aol.com/ksnicholas/fanfic/index.html>
- FANFIC RESOURCES <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~bentley/fanfic/fanfic.html>
- BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER, <http://SlayerFanfic.alz.com/>
- CHICAGO HOPE, <http://cats1.admin.pps.pgh.pa.us/~elbling/fanfic.htm>
- XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS, <http://www.xenafan.com/fiction/>
- THE X-FILES, <http://gossamer.simplenet.com/index.html>

But for Jill Kirby, "good fanfic is just as good as any episode of the TV show, and often better."

Ms. Kirby, 30, is a bank manager in Chicago who administers one of three Web sites devoted to fiction about "Buffy," which features a teen-age girl battling the forces of darkness. Fans have written more than 100 stories based on the show, a 10-to-1 ratio to the number of episodes that have been broadcast.

Special Agent Fox Mulder of "The X-Files," an apparent suicide at the end of last season, is variously dead, alive or an alien hybrid, depending on which Web site you visit.

Dr. Daniel Nyland of "Chicago Hope" stands accused of negligence as the new TV season approaches. But on the Web, he has had his good name restored — with the aid of Monica, a character from a different series, "Touched by an Angel."

So far, the fan fiction phenomenon has unfolded with the forbearance of the television industry. While several studios have threatened to press charges against people who set up

Web fan-club sites that use pirated pictures and trademarked logos, the networks have allowed fiction sites to proliferate in peace.

"As long as somebody's not out there trying to make money with it, I don't think anybody wants to shut them down," said a spokesman for 20th Century Fox, which produces "The X-Files."

"The thing that scares all of us is that NBC is going to call us up and say 'cease and desist,'" said a writer in New York City who asked to be identified only by her nom de Net, Kitt Montague.

Ms. Montague taught herself a Web programming language so she could publish her five novel-length stories based on the police drama "Law and Order" on her home page earlier this year. One popular 10-part story brings Ben Stone, a character who left the show in 1994, face to face with his replacement, Jack McCoy: "He was about Ben's age, perhaps a year or two older, lean, with a rakish head of salty gray hair and heavy eyebrows, but he was handsome in the way some large birds are: stately and angular."

Standard fan-fiction form nods to copyright law by acknowledging up front that others own the characters. But several television producers, worried about their own potential liabilities, said they avoided reading fan fiction — in the same way they ignore unsolicited scripts — so that an amateur writer could not later contend that a story was stolen.

The professionals who do acknowledge sneaking an occasional on-line peek evince a faint hostility toward the Internet scribes.

"I've seen some fan fiction from certain female Internet users that seems to be elaborate fantasies involving them and one of the characters," said Rene Balcer, executive producer and head writer for "Law and Order."

Popular shows spawn hundreds of unofficial sites.

The vast majority of fan-fiction writers are women, and most are younger than 40.

Ken Topolsky, executive producer of "Party of Five," likes to get fan feedback in Internet chat rooms but draws the line at listening to story ideas. "If they want to write an episode," Mr. Topolsky said, "what they should do is write an episode, request a release and send it in."

But for most fan writers, a long-shot hope of creating a script for actual broadcast is not the point.

"I can tell you what drives me to write it — absolutely guaranteed audience," said Nina Smith, 36, of Yonkers. "I've got a mailbox with well over 200 pieces of fan mail."

Ms. Smith, an unpublished author of three novels, has made a name for herself in one of fan fiction's more difficult genres: the crossover, in which some or all of TV land exists in one surreal place.

Plucking characters from "The X-Files," "E.R." and "Chicago Hope," Ms. Smith devised a crime, set in Chicago, that was medical in nature

with paranormal overtones. The widely circulated result, "A Dark Smear in the Sky," has even been translated into French by appreciative readers. Its sequel, "Black Sail," has also won acclaim.

"Most people think of television as mindless consumption, and I like the fact that there are people turning around and using it as a springboard for all sorts of personal creativity," Ms. Smith said.

It is in crossovers and other fan-generated genres like "slash" — in which the sexual orientation of all the main characters has been switched (the police officers from "Starsky & Hutch" are a favorite topic here, as are Captain Kirk and Mr. Spock from "Star Trek") — that fan fiction begins to depart markedly from its source material.

The creative chaos has given rise to terms like "canon" to distinguish events that were actually portrayed on TV, as opposed to those that transpire only within the alternate universe of electronic fan fiction.

"If you read enough," posted one reader to a fan fiction discussion group, "they blend."

Consider the case of Sheryl Martin, a security guard in Toronto. She created a character named Jackie St. George who accompanies the F.B.I. agents Mulder and Scully in her "X-Files" fiction. "I get E-mail saying, 'Which show was she on?'" Ms. Martin said of Jackie, about whom she has written some 200 stories. "That to me is the ultimate flattery."

Well, maybe the ultimate flattery was the man who fell in love with the on-line Jackie St. George but settled for becoming engaged to the real-life Ms. Martin.

NEW YORK POST, MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 1997

LARRY KING's assistant Carrie Stevenson celebrated her birthday at Drai's in L.A. Her boss ordered, paid for, personally fetched and brought in a specially made surprise birthday cake. He kept waiting for it to be carted to the table. The thing never arrived. Know why? It accidentally got delivered to another diner. Carrie Fisher. Who happily accepted it and ate it.

A couple
OF "OLDIES"
but "goodies"

Friday, May 31, 1996 • DAILY NEWS

Sale 'n away

As people, we believe we are never so tall as when we stoop down to look in a bargain bin for a great deal on a shirt.

So we weren't surprised to hear that Harrison Ford, multi-millionaire star of "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and "Stars Wars," was rifling through a \$60 "sale" bin at Barnes the other day. Hell, we're shocked we didn't bump into him.

Sadly, Ford couldn't find a suitable (or perhaps cheap enough) blue shirt, and walked away from the bin empty handed. Better luck next time.

CURSE OF STAR WARS



Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher and Harrison Ford in a scene from re-released smash *Star Wars*

How handsome Mark Hamill's career crashed after taking off in biggest blockbuster of all time

HANDSOME Mark Hamill was hotter than a shooting star when he burst on to the screens in *Star Wars* — but then his career crashed and burned.

His face was left mangled after a horrific car crash, starting a run of bad luck that's plagued him for years.

Hamill looked a certainty for superstardom after his blockbuster role as Luke Skywalker in 1977. But all he could do was watch from the sidelines as co-star Harrison Ford soared to the top instead.

"It many ways *Star Wars* was a blessing and a curse for Mark," a friend tells STAR. "He was a box office sensation. It's hard to be-

lieve that today he's barely known for anything but Luke Skywalker."

Hamill, now 45, was in his near-fatal crash just before *Star Wars* was first screened.

He said: "The smash fractured my left cheekbone and practically wiped my nose off my face. It took three operations to rebuild it."

Star Wars also almost ruined his budding romance with Marilou York, a former *Playboy* model and dental hygienist. "I had to taste groupies and fame," he admits. "I went Las Vegas to date 38-year-old showgirls. I wanted to scale all these women. That was exciting for about the first 10 minutes.

"Eventually I wanted

something to hold on to and a family."

Hamill and York eventually married Dec. 17, 1978. They've been together since and have three children, Nathan, 17, Griffin, 13, and Chelsea, 8.

Although happy in his personal life, Mark soon realized that his success as Luke was stopping him from getting other movie roles.

He starred in a series of low-budget and forgotten movies. For the past two years he's been starring in the hit CD-ROM series *Wing Commander*.



Family man Mark with wife Marilou and daughter Chelsea. The couple also have two sons.

Hamill has also done voice-over work, and has turned his graphic novel *The Black Pearl* into a series of comic books.

He says: "I've done a lot in my career that's thrilling, but I feel it's nothing compared with what lies ahead."

—STEPHEN VIENS

LOST WARS

'Star Wars' is everywhere—including the cutting room floor

The *Star Wars* Special Editions have come and gone, playing to a new generation of *Star Wars* fans and blowing away box-office records as easily as the Death Star picks off planets. Bringing the trilogy to the big screen again not only involved George Lucas' painstaking restoration of the original films, but also the important inclusion of new sequences and scenes that were originally left on the cutting-room floor.

But if you thought the Special Edition uncovered all the lost footage from the *Star Wars* saga, think again. Even after the release of the updated trilogy, a variety of outtakes, some significant, remain hidden away in the Lucasfilm vaults.

Although the Special Edition of *Star Wars: A New Hope* saw Luke's friend Biggs Darklighter finally get some screen time, many fans felt the new scene was awkward—and for good reason. The sequence, set at the rebel base in the run up to the Death Star finale, was actually a bookend to a scene that was scripted and

shot as the film's opening. But since that earlier scene remained in the vaults, the arrival of Biggs in the Special Edition lacked the necessary exposition. This "lost" opening features Luke, Biggs and their scurrious pals Camie and Fixer hanging out at Toshi Station in Tatooine, exchanging stories about the Academy and the Rebellion. Rumor has it that Lucas was forced to film this sequence when Fox executives became nervous when they realized the "hero" didn't make an appearance until 20 minutes into the film. Supposedly Lucas hated the footage and was happy to take out the scissors when the first cut's running time exceeded two hours. Although the scene successfully establishes Luke's

plight—not to mention his nickname, "Wormie"—its absence from the Special Edition was confusing for casual *Star Wars* fans, who were left wondering how Luke and that guy with the dippy disco mustache came to know each other so well.

Nothing if not consistent, Lucas also failed to restore an important sequence at the opening of *The Empire Strikes Back* Special Edition. The Wampa snow creature, glimpsed only briefly in the original release, was pivotal to a subplot involving the rebels on Hoth. After the injured Luke is retrieved from the snowy wastelands (and

healed using a special "Bacta" mask), the rebels discover a pack of Wampas

decided the sequence was a diversion and unnecessary to the opening, a decision he maintained for the Special Edition.

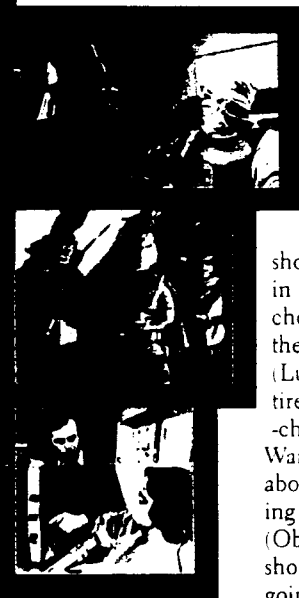
Return of the Jedi, of course, also featured a number of additional sequences, although most were simply snippets that had been cut from existing scenes. The one still-missing scene that hard-core fans had hoped would make an appearance in the Special Edition featured Luke, Leia, Han and Co. making their way through a violent, blinding sandstorm after Jabba's barge goes ballistic. "That carbon freeze was the closest thing to dead there is," Han tells Luke. "And it wasn't just sleepin'." It was a big wide awake nothing." An additional scene with Luke's X-Wing and the Millennium

Falcon breaking off in separate directions over Tatooine was later added as a transition in place of the sandstorm sequence.

Other shorter moments that failed to make the grade for the *Jedi* Special Edition include Luke

showing off his aerobatic skills in the Rancor pit, Lord Vader choking the life out of some of the Emperor's private guards (Lucas was reportedly growing tired of Vader's patented death-choke maneuver) and Obi-Wan talking in more detail about Luke and Leia's upbringing in the Dagobah sequence (Obi-Wan split up the pair shortly after birth, with Luke going to the desert of Tatooine and Leia to Alderaan).

Since they didn't meet Lucas' expectations, these deleted sequences probably have about as much chance of seeing the light of day as an official reissue of the *Star Wars* Christmas Special. But with the 20th anniversary Special Edition breaking box-office records, it isn't too far-fetched to think that Lucas might be tempted to pull more surprises out of his sleeve—maybe just in time for *Star Wars*' 30th anniversary. —Steve Harris



running loose within their compound. After the creatures are penned in and the Snowtroopers attack, C-3PO cleverly leads the Empire's advance

troops to the man-eating Wampas, which provides Han, Leia and C-3PO with the time they need to escape Hoth in the Millennium Falcon. A portion of this sequence was actually shown in the original theatrical trailer, but Lucas apparently



Kid First Aid:

REDBOOK

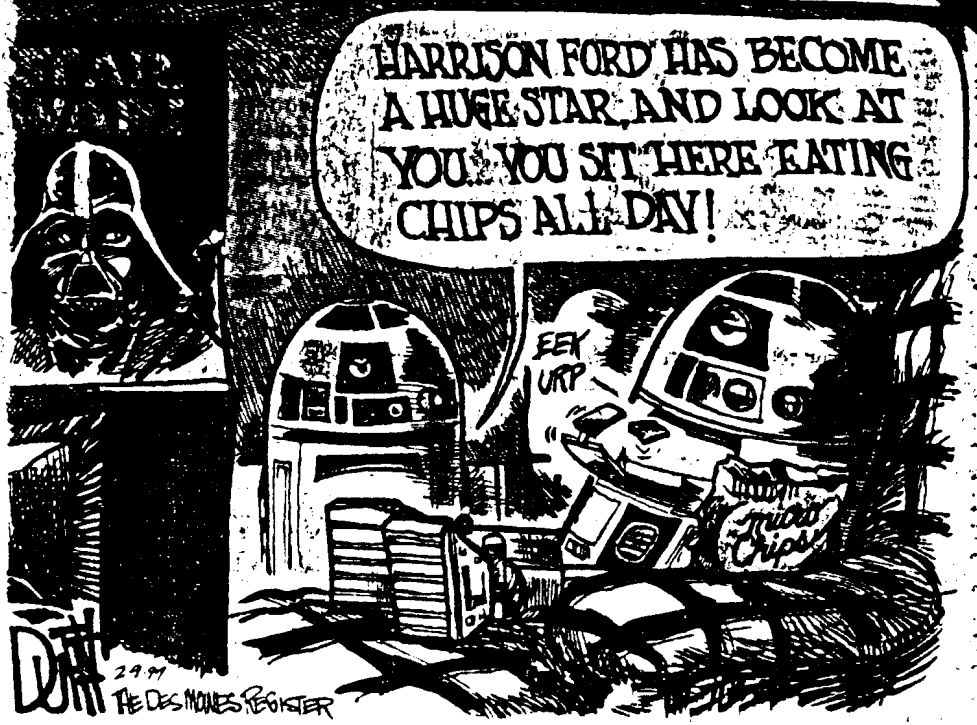
46

only 46 ??!!

Harrison Ford

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

HARRISON FORD HAS BECOME A HUGE STAR, AND LOOK AT YOU: YOU SIT HERE EATING CHIPS ALL DAY!



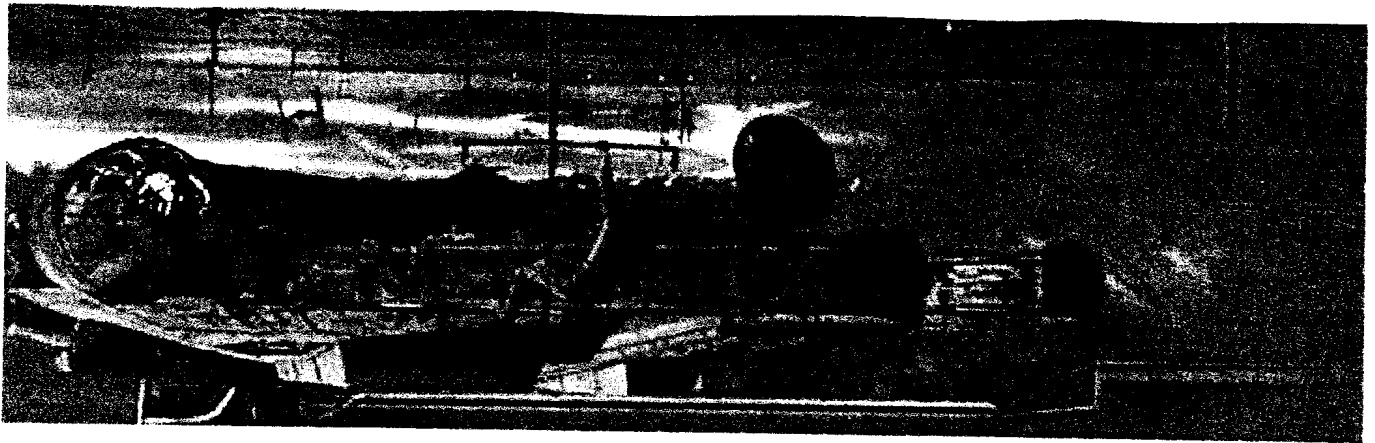


NON SEQUITUR

By Wiley



This isn't Star Wars, but I love it!



FROM A CERTAIN POINT OF VIEW

THE TRAILER

Matthew Whitney
1003 Allen Street
Springfield, MA 01118-2557

December 31, 1998

So, what does everyone think of the trailer for Episode 1? I rate it as *fabulous*! My two favorite bits include the use of the “panels” (Every generation has a legend...). That style does a great job of setting the drama. Next, I am flabbergasted at how much the trailer evokes the spirit of ANH. Granted Lucas wrote and directed, so it should reflect the segment he directed. Still, I never thought it would take on that look. What did I expect? Well, long ago (in a galaxy...) I went on record saying I wouldn’t be fooled into thinking Lucas was finally making the other six films until I was in line the day it opened. Obviously, we are dealing with more than a rumor that Lucas might be getting ready for filming (remember those days, fellow dinosaurs?) — but I really have not been creating mental images of what the look of the next film would be. On that line of thinking — any style or look to the film should surprise me. This “going back to Tatooine” is a real treat, though!

Have your theater experiences with the trailer been like what my friends and I are having here? Every audience is greeting the trailer with applause!!! And I shall stress that this is for any genre film. You’d expect such reaction from a SF film crowd, but I’ve seen the trailer with non-SF films, and the applause is still there. The public is ready for SW to return!

I will make one quibble. The shot of countless battledroids (name?...though could these be the Clones?) is obviously a computer generated effect. I’m still not a huge fan of that medium. Like those folk who have marveled about the quality of the effects miniatures in the Smithsonian exhibit, I’m a model fan to the core. However, I imagine there was no other way to stage such a scene but by using computer FX.

RE the title: *The Phantom Menace*, I like it. It strikes me as fitting the “Flash Gordon” roots of the Saga. When said in its entirety, with *Star Wars: Episode 1 – The Phantom Menace*, it does have that epic ring to it. Also, as this film leads into a period of decline with the fall of Anakin and the Old Republic, I think it makes nice symmetry with the three word title *A New Hope*, which leads into the redemption of Anakin and the overthrow of the Empire.

Denise Roper: Welcome to SE. A sequel novel to *Splinter of the Mind’s Eye* would be a great idea. While I haven’t the time to read the dozen novels per month that are released (so I don’t even try to get into them), I’d leap at such a novel.

Picking up on your musing that the Tree in TESB could harbor some sort of trapped spirit, like Merlin in the Crystal Cave is a super notion! Works for me.

Judith Klinger: I was mostly joking in that earlier issue when I went into a brief discussion of what the Force is but I said that I had to drop it before I got too mathematical and was driven out of SE like a droid at the bar during Happy Hour in Mos Eisley. I do not have some elaborate theory full of quantum equations that I’m not sharing. If anyone is interested in such stuff (particularly discussions of “hyperspace”), Michio Kaku is the author to look up. Believe it or not, it is fairly accessible to anyone with an

interest in astronomy. The fractal reference I brought in arose as I thought there existed a parallel in the SW universe when some people look about and see evidence of the Force while others are oblivious to it. It struck me as how one can look at many fractals and see a general shape but miss the endless self-similar patterns imbedded within it. That takes deeper, closer inspection.

A couple of people mentioned my work toward my Masters degree – I still have one more summer, a six-week session, to go. It should be wrapped up by mid-August of '99. (Though *thanks* for the early congrats...I'll take that as a prediction of good things to come!) As much work as it's been, I have thoroughly enjoyed it. It's been like summer camp for nerds, and I revel in that sort of stuff. It is very concentrated, though. I'm in classes technically only during the 6-week term during the summer, and that it has proved to be an intense time. (And last summer I got to "celebrate" its concluding by coming down with my second bout of pneumonia! Cough, cough! Not fun.) Even so, this has been a fabulous experience. Now the big decision...what to do next?

Pat Grant mentioned the SW Trivial Pursuit Game. Yes, that's great fun! I got it for my birthday this past November from my brother and his family. (Last year was the talking Darth Vader bank...do they know me, or what? Though for Christmas this year I passed my brother the hint that I was looking for these two new MATH books available through Amazon.Com ... and they got them for me. Can't wait. Well, I said I was a nerd!) The R2 "randomizer" could be more user-friendly and there should be more characters/players, but that's picking nits. The other day, though, the player who went first ran off five pie slices in a row before a question tripped him up. The other player and I hadn't even been asked our first question. For it to be a "fair" competition, with mega-fans like us there should be some sort of limit set (no more than three rolls in a row, to let the other players have a chance, or some sort of agreement). ((*Ed: When Katy and I play, we set a limit on number of turns a player can have. It's more even-handed that way.*))

On Lucas and this nasty habit of changing story elements (this has been the subject of many letters), I am bothered by it to a degree, but am not looking to make it a major bone of contention. Here I am referring mostly to the stuff that is mentioned in interviews from 20 years ago or in a program book, and the like. Filming "Special Editions" is a different, bigger kettle of fish (Greedo did *not* fire first!). I'm coming into this topic mostly in response to the couple of folk who mentioned the age differences of the "twins" as reported in the script to ANH or the novelizations – and now Luke and Leia are both officially 20 at the time of ANH.

It seems Lucas is doing nothing new under the sun that authors have not been doing down the ages. Consider the

recent Branagh adaptation of the "complete" *Hamlet*. From what I understand, there probably were as many versions of each play when originally staged in Shakespeare's day as there were performances (an exaggeration, but probably not all that great of one). Often they would change a scene that wasn't working, hoping for more positive audience reception, or would tailor a scene to appeal to a particular audience member, often a rich patron who needed to be flattered or would be offended by a reference. When the plays appeared in text, there were other changes (beyond the "bad quartos" which were rip-offs, reconstructions from someone's memory and not meant for publication by the author or his friends), including censorship (By Jove's replacing By Gods). The prof I had for Intro to Shakespeare (took it in fall of '98) described this as the texts being very "fluid." Branagh's "complete" version probably was never staged for Elizabethan audiences, but rather it included the several alternate scenes that the companies had tried out over the years. Forgive this next great stretch, but I liken that to someone unearthing – in three hundred years time – the "complete" script of *Clue*, including all the alternate endings that were used in the cable versions. (I heard there were different endings, in which each character was the murderer, depending on which version you watched.)

Bringing this back to Lucas, I can live with his not being entirely set in his mind at the time of ANH's filming as to whether Luke and Leia were brother and sister – never mind whether they were twins or not. Statements from that time should not be held over his head and constrain every step he takes in making the prequels. Neither do I feel his changing the course of plot elements should paint him as wishy-washy, stumbling his way through the Saga.

While I do hope that in 300 years they will not be reviving cultural icons such as the movie *Clue*, I do think the Shakespeare to Lucas analogy works. Granted, GL is no Shakespeare, but remember that Elizabethan drama was "low-brow" entertainment for the masses. It was definitely not considered respectable literature at the time. The SW Saga of our era is, hopefully, something we will be handing down to future generations (and not *The Jerry Springer Show*).

Tina Bentrup: Glad you enjoyed my medieval garb photo. This past Renaissance Faire season I "upgraded" the weaponry to a hand-and-a-half broadsword. I call it Orcrist, in honor of Thorin's sword. Fun stuff!

I feel quite envious of those going to MediaWest this year! That should be some sort of special event. It really is hard to believe that there will be a new SW film out as we head to our keyboards for the next issue of SE. Thanks again, Cheree, for providing this forum!

ENJOY!!!

STORIES IDEAS

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January 2, 1999

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a great holiday season. 1999 is going to be a year of change in SW fandom. Episode One will either be loved, hated, or possibly ignored by some fans: I know Lucas can't please everyone. Let's hope for the best and promise to never let our love for the original trilogy wane. *Trek* fans, did the appearance of *ST:TNG* lessen your love for the original series? I'd imagine there are fans who like only the original series, or only the newer t.v. series offerings, or only the movies, but you're all *Trek* fans, right? Did the new cast of characters on *TNG* or *DS9* or *Voyager* diminish or augment *ST* fandom? I'm not a *Trekker*, can someone answer this for me? Should we expect similar phenomenon in *SW* fandom? (*Ed: I was an original ST fan from 1966 and still love it with a passion. I also love the other three series. Far from usurping TOS, the others have expanded the ST universe immensely. I think the Prequels will do the same for SW.*)

I have to agree with Matthew about the prequels changing our perspective of the existing trilogy. This is inevitable. Our views of Anakin and Obi-Wan are likely to be changed the most, but there will be other altered views which we don't expect. We'll learn a great deal more about the Jedi and the Force which will change the way we see the existing trilogy. I would expect to see new fanzines popping up all over the place, zines dedicated to prequel characters only. That's great. I just hope the original characters won't be ignored. I am still hoping that Lucas will bring them all back in a sequel trilogy one day.

Deb: That "Behind the Magic" CD ROM is really something! I loved seeing the deleted Biggs scenes and the rare cast photos. What I'd really like to see is that sandstorm scene which was cut from ROTJ. Has anyone ever written a zine story about the sandstorm?

Belea: Speaking of zine stories, there's an idea — put the sandstorm back in ROTJ. Write about Lando's first meeting with Vader and Fett at Cloud City, or about Luke and Han's night out in the Hoth blizzard. What did Leia and Chewie go through when Luke and Han were lost out there in the storm? I'll bet they stayed up all night worrying. R2 and 3PO probably did, too. How did Lando find employment at Jabba's palace, and what were his experiences there? What happened to Leia when Wicket took her back to the Ewok village? And who made that strange dress of animal skins

she's wearing? What happened to Luke's X-Wing after he left Cloud City? Did Vader confiscate it, access his data banks, find out about Dagobah? Or is all that info stashed inside R2's memory banks? I don't know if any of these ideas have been used before. Anyone else have ideas for stories?

Z. P.: Yes, the no-slash part of fandom needs a few explosive stories exploring Han and Leia's relationship and Luke's relationship with a woman ... how about Mara Jade? Yeah, let's stir up some controversy here!

Folks, if you haven't read Timothy Zahn's latest novel, *Vision of the Future*, I'm about to spoil it for you. According to Zahn, Luke and Mara have been in denial about their feelings for each other for quite some time, and they finally realize the depth of their love for one another as the result of the two of them linking minds through the Force. They have to do this to "fight as one" during a particularly intense battle scene. When the immediate threat has passed and the two of them take a moment to relax, he asks her to marry him, and she accepts! Mara also has a vision of the future in which she's married to Luke, and there are children in their lives. (It's about time, Skywalker!) So would anyone care to write about Luke and Mara being romantically involved? I think there are lots of possibilities for stories here.

Everyone: Informal survey — What do you all think about Luke and Mara as a couple? Love it? Hate it? Could care less? Inquiring minds want to know! I, for one, am glad Mara has reformed, renounced the darkside, and decided to become a Jedi. She's smart and funny, and Luke's life will *never* be boring so long as she's around. I think that they make a great team! Comments?

Did anyone see Mark Hamill on *Just Shoot Me*? I got a kick out of that episode. I liked his appearance on *The Simpsons* even better. "Luke, Be a Jedi Tonight" would be a great filk, so someone finish it! I also caught that episode of *Celebrity Deathmatch* on MTV which featured a claymation "Mark Hamill" and "Peter Mayhew." Did anyone else see this one? Funny stuff!

Amanda: It's great to hear from you, Skysister. I'm glad to know that you've got another issue of *Echo Three* planned for Media West this year. You can reserve a copy for me now. Luke fans, rejoice!

Gerald: I enjoyed your essay, "The Day I Met Gary Kurtz." Kurtz confirmed what we all suspected about the Greedo scene: Han was meant to have shot first. I knew it! I also agree with what he said about the re-editing messing up the music cues. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the TESB:SE when those scenes of Vader going to his shuttle are inserted among the original footage of Luke's rescue from beneath Cloud City. The new scenes really lessen the impact of this sequence by interrupting the tension John Williams helped to create with his excellent scoring for this segment.

Speaking of John Williams, does anyone know if there is an address by which he can be reached? Does the composer have a fan club? (He should!)

I really love his music. If anyone has any articles on him, send them my way, or ask Cheree to print one or two in SE. Oh, and does anyone know the release dates for the Episode One movie soundtrack and novelization? I am eagerly awaiting both. I've read that Terry Brooks is writing the novelization, and that it will contain a great deal of background information that won't be in the film. Definitely a must-read.

Well, here's to a new year of SW mania. Happy 1999!

BALANCING THE FORCE

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February 8, 1999

How incredible that we are now waiting for the prequel. Swimming in rumors. The actors, Ewan McGregor — went and watched *Trainspotting* to check him out; he has my full approval (big grin), Liam Neeson of course is Liam Neeson. Half of the rumors are about little baby Anakin being someone foretold in prophecy, to balance the Force, whatever that means, does that mean that his destiny was to turn to the dark side, whether he wanted it or not? Lucas said somewhere that Anakin accepted his destiny. Accepted, as in making a conscious choice to turn, because it was necessary for the balance of light and dark? That would be an interesting idea. Seen some parts of the making of the prequel videos at the official SW site. The most promising was that the guys who worked out the lightsaber fights said that nobody had seen a fully trained Jedi fight yet. We had seen, he said, an aged Kenobi fighting with a severely crippled Vader, then we had seen Vader fight with badly trained boy. But for the prequel, he said, they had to create a fighting style that had to be incredible, to make it believable that the Jedi used short range lightsabers in a world of blasters and beat the heck out of everybody. I liked that, apparently a lot of thought went into this. Liked young Kenobi's braid too. Somehow I can't believe that the Jedi Council would deny the training from a kid with incredible Force talent. That sounds like a recipe for making the kid an outcast and then blaming him for being one. We'll see. Can't tell you how much I'd like to know who is going to play the young Anakin. Apparently, rumors circulated about Mark Hamill's son, but that was not in any way confirmed. (Would

be a cute turn, if it were true.) But I think Lucas will go for an unknown... I also hope that we'll get Chewie and maybe a fleeting glimpse of a baby Han. It'd cost nothing and surely it'd make a whole lot of fans very happy. Can't wait 'til May 21. Lucas did say that the prequels will change the way we look at the trilogy. I wonder what he meant by that. I already look at the trilogy somewhat differently. I almost see Ewan McGregor behind Alec Guinness's face. No doubt that we'll have a great time discussing the prequel in the coming issues of SE. Whether with joy or gnashing of teeth, doesn't matter. I'm looking forward to it anyway. Was there ever in the history of literature or myth a similar event, giving the prequel after the story? I don't think so. We are a lucky bunch, being so royally entertained.

ANYWHERE BUT ENDOR!

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Hi, folks! I survived Moviecon#1 - War of the Santas (a/k/a Smutcon '98)! Those of you who read my report know what I've accomplished/suffered through/enjoyed to no end (take your pick).

Okay, folks — the STEYN is coming. I hope to go to Dallas (and then go see *Phantom Menace* with the boys ... there's nothing like sitting in the back row of a dark theater with SW in front of your nose — and assorted SW characters flanking you left and right), and also attend MWC (for the first and maybe only time in my life).

So, now they've elected Harrison to be "Sexiest Man of the Year"? That probably makes a certain Carrie F. very happy. And Barb Anderson ... Bet they stuffed the ballot box. But then, I shall not complain. The man does it for me, too. Drool! There's only one "Indiana Solo."

On Saturday, November 20th, BBC World News ran (I taped it) the infamous new prequel trailer plus some one- or two-sentence interviews with various fans at the Smithsonian SW exhibition. Okay, so now I've seen the trailer ... Say, what were you thinking, George?

This is no longer *Star Wars*, this is Special Effects Wars. And even more creatures for the Galactic zoo. Groan! As if there weren't too many of those already. And please: what is that stupid, awful thing that looks like a cross between a puppet from the *Dinosaurs* sitcom and Roger Rabbit?? Is that supposed to be the sidekick of our new hero? Kind of a Chewie replacement? No way, José! This creature — whatever it is — does *not* find my approval. It falls into the same category as flop-eared blue elephants (Max Rebo), and

the Yuzzem. Only worse: it is completely computer generated. I can handle CGI dinos, Rontos, Dewbacks ... I cannot handle CGI main characters. And if I see a computer generated bounty hunter, I'll go ballistic. I *did* enjoy seeing Klaatu somewhere in the crowd (he must be ages old when we see him again in Jabba's palace in ROTJ), and Yoda was a sight for sore eyes. Location-wise, we're mainly back on good ol' Tatooine and, Force be with us, the forest moon of Endor. Figures. George discovered some left-over Ewoks to be used yet again in his never-ending story. Lucas, haven't we suffered enough? We had ROTJ, we had two all-Ewok movies ... and now we're going back to Endor *again*? What about Corellia? We could see how Mama Solo changes the diapers on Baby Han. Or how about a little sidetrip to Concord Down in the Mandalorean system? We might catch a glimpse of two freckle-faced, reddish-blond identical twin brothers (Shekil? Mereel? Whatever their names really are) taking their first insecure steps. Can't we possibly go to Alderaan? Dantooine? Hoth? Dagobah? Anyplace but Endor?!

Did you read that the "Imperial Palace" (in Caserta, Italy) caught fire? Hope this wasn't the work of some Lucasfilm maniacs...

About the new "Jeremiah Bollux" (JB's official nickname ... and so fitting) shows *First Frontier* and *Aristocrats*:

First Frontier is a sci-fi show taking place on Earth (in the future, of course). People in it wear elaborate, Renaissance-type costumes. JB plays a 300-year-old cantakerous drunkard who is thought of by the others as not being human, and who was returned to Earth after (as I understand it) an almost "Buck Rogers"-type AWOL time in space. *First Frontier* is an ongoing show (much like B5), so you will have to see ALL episodes to be fully in the picture.

Future plotlines? Hm, let's see ... Luke, sexually frustrated, tries his luck with the farm animals on his home planet. Three weeks later, a search party is launched ("Boys, the Skywalker kid went into that barn 15 days ago and hasn't been seen since. And while you're at it, check that ol' Bantha cow in the last tie-stall. He might have fallen in!").

Or how about this: Kenobi's nose suddenly starts growing longer and longer with each sentence he speaks. It takes the special medical skills of 2-1B to find out that he is suffering from a bad case of Clintonitis Pinocciadae maximus.

Or maybe: Threepio is elected into the senate of the New Republic for successfully talking blech all day, being a nuisance, and having no clue as to what is really going on around him — all the basic requirements for making it in politics.

Pat Grant: Alan Rickman, huh? After seeing some of his movies, I think he'd make a nice addition to the SW saga — playing an over-the-edge Sith Lord, for instance. Only

slightly more serious than his "George of Nottingham."

Creation Con as well as ICON are not among the faves of the stars, that much is clear. Bulloch and Mayhew both voiced their unhappiness with the strategies of these "con artists". For instance, it was not really John Barrett's fault that Galactic Entertainment went belly-up last year, but actually the doing of ICON. Hm! And Creation is putting such a tight leash on them, the poor boys are actually choking. I guess that's why they liked Jens Reinheimer's Moviecon in Böblingen: they were allowed to wander, drink beer, eat, hug the girls, play with computers, and throw snowballs. No leash in sight!

Okay, all for now. Hope to see, hear, and hug you all at either Dallas and/or Lansing later in May. So, until we meet: Put Capt. Cargo in the Solo hold, fly casual, and always let the Wookiee win!

FEEL THE EXCITEMENT

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January 27, 1999

I don't know about you guys, but I feel like I can just sit still, close my eyes, and just *feel* the excitement and anticipation building as we grow closer to the release of *The Phantom Menace*.

We're planning on really doing up the cantina at MWC this year into something really special. If anyone has any ideas or would like to help, contact me right away. I'm especially in need of a few artists, including someone who can do scenes of ships in space. If you can provide artwork but won't be coming to the convention, I will be happy to pay the postage.

Matthew Whitney: I really liked the way you focused on the issue of torture ... that the droid torture was, as you called it, a brush stroke to establish the evil of Jabba. I agree.

Okay, even though it is off the subject, re the Face on Mars ... I have seen the newer photos and do not find them disappointing at all. They are at a different angle, but there are still tell-tale depressions (dark areas). If this thing *was* built by extraterrestrials, it could be that instead of a full 3D structure (i.e., pyramids and the Sphinx), it could be simply something like a relief painting (called a bas relief, I think), the kind that starts out flat but sticks out a little in some places. When viewing it with that in mind, you can still see the face. However, I'm not opposed to the idea that it could be natural. I've seen natural rock and tree formations that

seem to resemble people's faces and bodies. So, who knows? I'd like to believe it was ET's. I just wish we could get a team of archaeologists and geologists there to find answers.

Denise Roper: Hi! And welcome to SE! By the way, great "pants" quotes. Glad to hear you're another *Splinter of the Mind's Eye* fan.

Regarding your comment to **Judith Klinger** last issue, I think this has "officially" been answered for us. In one article about the new movie, I read that we would learn that "Darth" is a title, not a name. This seems to be verified with the introduction of Darth Sidious in the new movie. My only question to that would be, why two titles? He was also referred to as Lord Vader. Was he ever (in the movies) called "Lord Darth Vader" all at one time? I guess it could be that "Darth" is a specific Sith title and "Lord" is a title bestowed on him by the Emperor. Historically, royalty would give out titles of Lord to favored people, usually coming along with a land grant or other financial boon. So, what about the term "Dark Lord"? What's confusing now is that there are a lot of terms we've come to accept as "canon" only to find out they were never used in the movies. Do you realize the flagship we all know and "love" — the *Executor* — is never mentioned by name in the movies? (At least I was told this; I haven't gone back and rewatched them to specifically check on this.) Anyway, it makes it confusing. (And don't forget the term "Sith" was never mentioned either!) ((*Ed: Nor was the Emperor ever called "Palpatine", nor was Han ever referred to as a "Corellian", nor were the Sand People ever called "Tusken Raiders."* No one ever heard Leia name her father as Bail Organa, nor was her last name ever mentioned. Owen and Beru were never called Lars, few of the Imperial officers were ever named, and none of the bounty hunters save for Boba Fett. Chewie's home planet was never identified as Kashyyyk and none of the Ewoks were ever identified by name. There is a LOT that we take as "canon" that came from the novelizations or "side sources".))

One last comment re your comment to **Debbie** about the two year difference between Luke and Leia ... Of course we all know George just had a small continuity mistake there. But I've already explained it off just as you mentioned — Luke's age is in Tatooinian years and Leia's is in Alderaan years. Makes a lot of sense. Who knows, maybe George really did intend it that way.

Belea: Thanks for the vote of confidence as for me organizing the bus trip to the movie. My only problem is that I'm sure they would require money up front for the bus and all, and if we don't get enough people I would not want, or be able, to cover the difference out of my pocket. However, the situation may have changed. I don't think we'll need a bus. I'd be more than willing to organize a car pool. As it turns

out, we have a new theater in Lansing and it is only about one mile from the hotel! For those of you familiar with the area, from the hotel you go past Denny's to KFC on the corner. Turn left there then right at the next street and you come to Target. After Target, you come to Sam's Grocery Warehouse. The new cinema, Celebration Cinema, is just past Sam's. I'd say at the most a mile and a half. They have one screen with the THX system. No other theater in town has THX.

I'm also going to talk to the theater manager and try to coordinate things with Lori Chapek-Carleton if I can get hold of her. ((*Ed: By all means, everyone let Lori know if you want to go en masse to the movie. You can email her at MdiaWst@AOL.com.*))

Tim Blaes: Have I got a book for you! Have you ever read a book called *Secrets of Our Spaceship Moon*? If not, I'll show it to you at MWC (remind me!)

There are several cross-overs that would work well with *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. I think we've already mentioned some of the obvious — *X-Files*, *Millennium*, and *She Wolf of London* (by the way, love the spotlight on Oz this season!), but how about these: *Buffy and Friday the 13th (the Series)*, *Buffy and Forever Knight*, *Buffy and Dark Shadows*, *Buffy and Poltergeist: The Legacy*, *Buffy and The Crow* ... I could go on and on, but for one that would really be scary, how about *Buffy and 90210* (vampires invade Beverly Hills and turn all the 90210 stars into vampires and Buffy has to stake them all). Well, one can dream...

Tina: Glad to hear I'm not the only one (okay, Kim, I know you didn't either) who hated the title *The Phantom Menace*. But I do have to say it has been growing on me and must admit it now sounds okay to me.

A. G. Steyn: Yes, it was quite a year last year. I've always liked Dave and was pleased to find out that Jeremy is equally nice. Anyone have any ideas on why the big difference between the British SW actors and the American ones? (The British stars just seem so much more open and amiable.)

Well, that's it for this time. Hope to see as many of you as possible at MWC. And if you do want to go to the movie en masse at MWC, write and let me know. And let me know if you'll have a car and how many you can fit in your car. See you there!



LIGHTENING THE PURSE

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Hi, everyone! First, let me reiterate the praise everyone else heaped on last issue and say "Congrats on #50, Cheree"! Even though I've missed out on the first forty-some issues, I'm glad you've held-out for this late-comer to join in. Thanks!

I loved reading all the bios; it was nice to add faces and personalities to the names I knew only through zines thus far. I'm really looking forward to meeting everyone at next Media.

Marti S. : Thanks for the invite to the Millennium Mall. I actually lightened my purse there quite a bit in the last two years since "discovering" zines. I'll be back this year to try to pick up some back issues. Last year I did get a copy of the SW Bibliography, which has proved itself a valuable resource.

Matthew W.: A good rationalization of droid torture. GL has already stated that the third episode will be dark in nature to depict Anakin's fall to the Dark Side, but I wonder how brave he (GL) will be in depicting this. What we know of turning to the Dark Side involves emotional, and probably physical, anguish. Given the example of *Temple of Doom*, can GL convince viewers of Anakin's fall, remain true to the characters and story, and still produce a film which will not receive a backlash from parents of young viewers? While I realize I'm a few years ahead of myself, I can't help but wonder.

Belea K.: A wake after the "funeral" sounds only fitting. How about a funeral procession, with pallbearers carrying a litter filled with Vader/Anakin stories, art and zines? The procession could start at the Dealers Room (where it all began...) and wind through the hotel, ending at the room for the funeral. Also, I will volunteer to make up black ribbons which could be worn throughout the con.

Tina B.: So Dan wouldn't let you buy the \$6000.00 Vader suit, huh? Could you imagine trying to explain to the loan officer at the bank why you need this \$6000.00 loan? Do you think Lord Vader would qualify as a home improvement loan? I hear they're giving great rates!! :-) I can't wait to see you and Dan again in May!!

Hope to meet everyone at Media!!

I MAY BE SCRUFFY...

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I suppose it's official now. A late-night entertainment news show stated that George Lucas no longer has any intention of doing Episodes 7, 8, or 9. I suspected as much, so it's not really a surprise. It's still a let-down, though. The Fox Network has been nagging George to let them do a Young Jedi Knights series, so perhaps those story elements won't go to waste. Most likely, though, we will have to settle with pro novels and zines.

Marti Schuller: In an old zine I have buried somewhere in storage is a filk, "You May Be Right, I May Be Scruffy. But It Just Might Be a Scoundrel That You're Looking For", set to an old Billy Joel song whose name I can't remember. ((Ed: "*I Might Be Crazy*", also used as the theme song for *Dave's World TV* show starring Harry Anderson as Dave Barry.)) I think I'd kill to hear Billy himself perform it.

No matter what "canon" is, all fan fiction is "alternate" even if it could fit perfectly with the official material. Even if the Prequels are embraced by most of fandom, I would like to see more experimentation. DC comics regularly publishes special stories called Elseworlds® that take their characters out of continuity and into different times and realities, such as Superman fighting in the Civil War or Batman becoming a vampire. We could explore our own alternates, such as a Luke & Leia who were never separated at birth, or a Han who made it through the Imperial Academy. We could reincarnate them into Arthurian myth or Native American folklore. Our options are open.

Matthew Whitney: Regarding "The Emperor's Advocate" by David Bratman. In the movie I saw, Luke did fail, he got his hand sliced off, his world as he understood it turned upside down, and the friends he came to rescue were either carted off or had to rescue *him*. He nearly died. As for Anakin tossing the Emperor down the shaft "a reflex of pure anger", what options were open to him that would have saved his son?

The exact nature of the Martian "face" aside, the behavior of those in authority against those who brought this matter to light is unforgivable. The universe/reality is so vast, and our knowledge so limited, we are not unlike blind men groping an elephant. Everything we learn implies 10 more things we don't know, so there is always an x-factor. Our scientific base is not as rigid as you and others seem to think, its tectonic plates constantly grinding and erupting. Examples: For years the existence of ball lightning was dismissed as folklore or optical illusion by most scientists, until it was

finally observed in '62 inside an airplane by Kent University Professor R. C. Jennison. Ironically, ball lightning is now used in the same blanket fashion to debunk UFO sightings the same way swamp gas was.) "Disease is caused by creatures too small to be seen? Unscientific rubbish!! Why, we might as well believe flies spontaneously generate from rotting meat." Ideally, a scientist should keep their preconceptions in check and reject nothing out of hand. Yet time after time facts are tossed aside and dismissed purely because they don't fit the dogma. This kink of backward thinking has more to do with politics than science.

There was, and remains, no reason to dismiss the existence of artificial structures on Mars. Those who tried to prove this were harassed and snidely ridiculed by those in authority. I find it hard to trust or respect that authority.

Denise Roper: Alan Dean Foster told me once that he didn't think there was much chance of a sequel to *Splinter* ever coming about. Although that was before the big SW fiction boom, I tend to agree with him.

Tina Benstrup: I don't understand what you and the others have against *The Phantom Menace* as a title. There's been so much grouching about it lately. I suspect that the menace of the title is the formation of the Empire, a "phantom" nobody sees coming. If I remember correctly, the title of the very first adventure serial was *The Phantom Empire*. I have no problem with the title.

Pat Grant: I looked all over MWC last year for Buffy zines but couldn't find any. There had better be some this year.

Cosmic "ley lines"? That could work. I'd bet that Alderaan's destruction disturbed the Force for more than just a moment, muddying the waters for all Force sensitives, including Vader.

Judith Klinger: The latest issue of *STAR WARS Insider* contains a facinating article on the first rough-cut of SW minus SFX but containing 30-40% different footage; alternate angles, additional action, longer cuts and deleted scenes. This "lost cut" exists as a silent b&w print, but the article was filled with color stills taken from original dailies of the deleted scenes, so perhaps sound and color could be restored. This cut could be great fodder for a documentary/retrospective. It wouldn't need Dolby Sound or a digital print, so it could be produced cheaply. Various people could insert comments without really disrupting anything. In fact I have this image in my mind of Mark and/or Carrie, C-3PO & R2, their silhouettes visible as if they're in a theater, as they make their coments. That could be fun.

A. G. Steyn: I've heard of all sorts of clothing fetishes, but you're the first I've found to be turned on by armor. I suppose I'm not really surprised, but wouldn't it be too awkward to be erotic?

Cheree: Black & white art can be colored. Comic books do it all the time. If you are able to scan the original artwork into a computer, you might even be able to color it digitally. The color work in #50 was nice, but didn't you lift it off the Web? They don't look so cool in b&w. Any chance for new mastheads? (Ed: Sure, you can scan and digitally color stuff ... providing you have a high resolution scanner, a bitmapped graphics program into which to download the scanned file and edit it, a PC with enough RAM to run it, a color printer to print it out on, and above all the know how, patience and time to do it. You also need the funds to have color copies run (which cost me — at the discount price my printer gives me for volume business — 85¢ per copy as opposed to 3.5¢ per copy for b&w, a price that is only 25 times higher than b&w printing. Anyone want to pay about \$15.00 or \$20.00 each for an SE??). I did the color issue as a special, one-timer, to celebrate SE's 50th issue. I can't afford to do it on a regular basis. And, yes, I did swipe the photo mastheads from the SW website. I'll no doubt go back to the traditional mastheads soon, tho.))

Femme Fatales ran a list of the 50 Sexiest Figures in Science Fiction. Carrie Fisher came in #2 between Yvonne (Batgirl) Craig #1 and Gillian Anderson #3. In a one page article Carrie tells what it was like writing and episode of *Young Indy*: "George is incredibly visual. There's different kinds of ways of expressing yourself, and George has a visual conception. I have my metaphors. They're visual, but they're still verbal. So when it comes to writing dialogue, George and I disagreed. We had those little boxes where you could push a button, and they said, 'fuck you, eat shit, you're an asshole.' And we just were pushing those at each other, and that's how it kind of disintegrated. I finally got my way but then he rewrote me, I think. George is George. Both he and Steven are very clear about what they want." I suppose this means *Episode Two: Surrender the Ewok* isn't going to happen.

Metaphors be with you...



GOT ME PSYCHED!

Debbie Kittle
11521 Idlewood Rd.
Silver Spring, MD 20906

Feb 10, 1999

Happy New Year one and all! My winter was starting off nicely but has it fizzled! What a big bummer! ((Ed: How do feel now that that Nor'easter hit? I heard Washington had 7 ft. of snow or something like that!))

So thoughts on the *Phantom Menace* trailer? I enjoyed it!! It looks great and has it got me psyched to stand in line.

January 31st was a sad day here in D.C. The exhibit closed down. It's still planning on touring but no word yet as to where and when.

Matthew: I loved the way you said "a new perspective on the existings trilogy." That's exactly the way I feel. Well put!

I think Biggs joined the Rebels because he'd seen too much, been ordered to do things his conscience was very uncomfortable with.

Denise: Welcome to SE. Good to see you here. Of course, I would love to see a young Han Solo in the prequels, but I don't expect that to happen.

As for the age discrepancies, I think GL had major plot points down but some details he did make up as he went along. If we only took what was said in the movies, we'd have no idea of Luke and Leia's age, just that they're the same age (whatever that may be) in ROTJ.

Judith: Yes, there is a CD ROM out called "Behind the Magic" that has missing scenes from the trilogy (Biggs and cantina) as well as some incredible never before seen stills! I have it but not a CD-ROM drive so have to rely on my sister's unit to look through it. BTM is the incredible. I'd highly recommend it! If you can't find it over in Germany, we can look for it while at MW.

Sorry this is short but it's been an incredibly busy past few months. Fly Casually and see most of you at MW!

"I've got a bad feeling about this." - Han Solo

"Oh, it's gonna be so much more than a bad feeling."

- Ares, *God of War*



BACKING OFF

Tina Inge Bentrup
5325 Browns Gap Road
Knoxville, TN 37918

Well, I'm beginning to back off of my strong stand against the title *The Phantom Menace*. Getting used to it I am, yes. In fact, there's so much out there about the prequel. I almost want to hide my eyes. I'm not sure I want to know this much about it before I see it. But then I went ahead and bought the February issue of *Vanity Fair*. How can you not?

Santa was good to us this year: when the dust had settled on Christmas Day, we found ourselves in possession of *SW Incredible Cross-Sections*, *The SW Visual Dictionary*, *Sansweet's SW Encyclopedia*, and *The SW Trivial Pursuit Game*. I'm still drooling over the Vader page in the *Visual Dictionary*. Unfortunately, I was down with a persistent cold/cough all during Christmas, and had to miss 4 concerts, 3 church services, 2 Christmas parties, and a partridge in a pear tree. I'm only now beginning to get my voice back.

Gerald Crotty: I enjoyed your bit about meeting Gary Kurtz, but mostly I enjoyed seeing a picture of YOU. Gosh, I had thought you were an OLD geezer!

Marti Schuller: Congratulations on being a Mother-in-Law! How did it go with the formal?

Denise Roper: Welcome to SE! I too expect Palpie to be a charismatic leader a la Hitler (au Hitler?). In the above-mentioned *Vanity Fair* article, Lucas says, "Palpatine is a wonderful guy in this movie." Cue for "I'm in love with a wonderful guy"? Sorry, I can't say I liked *Splinter of the Mind's Eye*. Yes, it did leave too many threads dangling, especially poor Darth minus one arm down in a deep dark pit. Another fan fiction sequel that might interest you is Joyce Yasner's "Fragment of the Splinter" in the 1982 zine *Imperial Entanglements*. Like most of Joyce's writing, it is daring, funny, and shamelessly Vader-centered.

Belea Kenney: Don't feel bad about not being on-line. The little bit I've read of SW discussions there is *far inferior* to what we have here in SE. Less thoughtful, more repetitive, and oh God the atrocious spelling! Besides, it's all going to go haywire in the year 2000 anyway.

Pat Grant: Interesting line of thought comparing Palpie to Richard III (one of my heroes, by the way) and offering the suggestion that the Alliance might re-write history just as the Tudors did after 1485. The reason this argument doesn't work (not even for you) is that SW is *myth*, not history. (And not science fiction, either, which most of the professional SW writers don't seem to understand).

What's the latest on getting a big group together at MWC and going to the movie by bus? Have you heard from Lori

yet? I agree with Belea that Lori probably has enough on her plate without organizing this. When will we know which theaters have been selected for Episode I showings? So many questions. so little time...

Speaking of time, it's Super Bowl Sunday, and we have some weird aliens coming over, so I gotta go. Laugh it up, fuzzballs...

P.S. Speaking of the Super Bowl, did anybody see the commercial for the Austin Powers movie? It starts out with the Emperor's window-on-the-stars, in front of which you see a black throne with its back turned toward you. Over the top of the chair you can see the top of a pale, bald head! And then you hear the familiar sound of Vader's respirator! And your mouth is hanging open and you're thinking, "My God, is this another SW trailer?" And then the chair swivels around to face you, and it's this bald guy stroking a cat like in the James Bond movies and he says, "You were expecting someone else, maybe?" I couldn't close my mouth for 5 minutes afterward!

GASPING!

Catherine Churko
590 Ft. Washington Avenue, Apt. 1M
New York, NY 10033-2041

January 31, 1999

Hi and healthy, happy new year to all. Hope anyone near areas hurt by the ice storms, twisters, heavy rains and floods, have made it through okay. Are there things people still need?

Not-so-fun times at my end: (Esp. August-October, somewhat better now). This kept me too busy and frazzled to remember SE's 51st deadline until long gone. Early on in first August weekend, my dad complained of pain in moving his shoulder. By mid-Sunday he couldn't get up/down/around without help. To ER on Monday, he was told he had a micro-tear and to contact his shoulder doctor (old injury), and had a slight fever they couldn't figure out nor locate through tests.

By day 6, I had my mom contact their doctor and demand he be taken in for surgery. We were both nearer to exhaustion than not. Surgery went well but he had a blood infection. Kept him hospitalized 3-1/2 weeks more with IV antibiotics. He hardly did any rehab because of the pain nor was gotten out of bed, so he lost the ability to dress, get up/down, walk (all he *could* do before, sometimes with difficulty).

He was sent to a nursing home closeby in September where he's been ever since. Psychologically, it was touch

and go for a few weeks, but he's seemed to turn around. Still were a lot of on-holds, setbacks at first to steady rehab. It's slow but he's made more progress since December holidays. We really don't want him home until he can take care of himself, because we can't in any extended, constant physical way.

SF Realms: Just saw *ST: Insurrection*. Enjoyed a lot of it. Good twists, subtext, humor. I agree a little, especially toward the end that it wasn't quite epic enough. Perhaps to have widened the scope they could have shown reactions back home as they received the message from Riker.

Also recently finished David Brin's *Heaven's Reach*. Some amazing stuff in scale of time, dimensions, distance, the well-drawn sapients and humor. Majestic, wonderful, strange and sometimes very sweet. And he hints in the afterword that he'll return to it some books down the road.

Okay, let's get to the letters ...

First, congrats, Cheree, on SE#50. Thanks for all your efforts. Fun bio's.

Z. P. and Matthew: Good prequel musings. My take — I hope GL does them well enough that we're going to gasp in sudden or growing revelations as we relating 1-3 to 4-6 with various characters/events. That was one of *Babylon 5*'s powers — the real changes many of the characters went through and consequences of actions.

As to 4-6 being diminished by 1-3? It may not happen. My first of SW art/stories (way before I found fandom) in fall 83-84 were all about Kenobi, Anakin, other SW characters and my own for the times in Prequel-land. So I think of it as "mine" already. It wasn't until 85-ish that I added post-ROTJ stories.

I kind of hope they'll have some of the flavor of TESB (my over all fave) — cross-currents, complexities, etc. 4-6 becomes the end of the story (since GL said no 7-9), or middle if he changes his mind.

Pat, Lisa, and Marti: Think you said it well on page 30 of SE51. To me, any one saying 1-3 won't be canonish are so ... arrogant, isn't quite the word. If GL hadn't created it, "you" wouldn't have it to change. Before "you" get "your" hackles up, I carry around many great alternate SW stories by fan authors in my mind — all happily co-existing. Some are as good as the canon.

Matthew: I've read that puppetry can get away with actions/issues to make a point, that wouldn't be acceptable using human actors. I've never had some one ask me about "little green men", etc., when they found out I read SF.

Belea, et al — net connections: I feel like I'm on Tatooine when it comes to fan communiques. No computer, no email. At least, I get to the library to see web page and read BBS that allow guest access. Like I saw the Prequel banner page Cheree put up in Marketplace before on the Net, otherwise my jaw would've dropped. Loved the way it looks.

SW Artists: Boy, I would have loved to have designed the new EPI ad: Kid Anakin with Vader's shadow. Wow. I'd consider buying that. And I've been salivating over the production sketches and paintings on the web re *Coruscant and Jedi Citadel*. Made me want to draw!

Z. P.: Hi, dere! Thanks for the public kudos. Then, it was one of those windows through humor I could get past my resistances to draw complex stuff.

Debbie: Hi — maybe Philly 2001 Worldcon? I have a chance of getting there, being closer to NYC. Too much *X-Files* is too horror/gory for me, so I watch mostly the over-arching conspiracy stuff. So I fought back queasiness during those late movie scenes, though the caverns were great. The ship/Bermuda triangle especially was cool.

Tim: Never heard of the moon or Phobos stuff.

Tina: How do! Hope the new job for Dan is going well. Hey, you're one of those not totally clubbing Kenobi over the head. I hope GL gives him a great story. Glad you liked the opera sketch. Chinese "Force-tion" cookies? Hee hee hee.

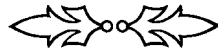
Boy, I'm sighing a little more, not getting to MWC this year with the big doings going on. Raise a glass for those of us with you in spirit.

But I made it for one day to Worldcon 98. At last my first WC. I was a bit too frazzled with so much to cram in, but I enjoyed it. The actual convention center was neat and easy on the feet — good carpets. I have never actually visited Baltimore so I loved the Inner Harbor. Some fun panels, beautiful art show.

Take care. Hoping we'll meet in good stead next ish. MTFBWY.



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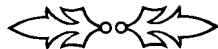
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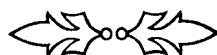


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A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #11. I'm happy to announce that I will be reopening TF #11 for submissions effective June 1, 1999. Having rested a bit and caught my breath, I'm ready to launch into the next issue. TF#11 will be slated for sometime in 2000 (not sure of a date yet until I see what material I get and how my schedule will be). For guidelines, SASE me at Cheree Cargill, 114 Villanova Circle, Forney, TX 75126 USA or email me at FalconPrss@AOL.com.

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Thanks to Nancy Baker, Tim Blaes, Catherine Churko, Toni DiMaria, Z. P. Florian, Pat Grant, and everyone else for the clippings. We wish we could print everything we receive!

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